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Business and Human Rights: a resource website

Update: Recent additions to the website

The item at the top of the list is the most recent addition to the website, irrespective of the date it was published. Go to relevant sections of the website to see a full listing of recent additions for each section.

Items added to website on Wednesday 23 April 2003:

Shell faces international protest at AGM - Oil giant Shell is still putting short-term profit before people and the environment, despite its public commitment to a "green" future, according to a shocking new report launched today to coincide with the company's London AGM. *Failing the challenge: The Other Shell Report*..contains first hand testimonies from communities living next door to Shell in the US, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, Argentina and China and catalogues the environmental damage, the health problems and the impacts of accident these communities face. But the report also shows how inadequate current UK company law is in protecting local people and the environment from UK companies who profit at the expense of people's health and the natural world. (Friends of the Earth, 23 Apr. 2003)

- full report: *Failing the challenge: The Other Shell Report 2002* (Friends of the Earth, Refinery Reform Campaign, groundWork South Africa, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance, South African Exchange Program on Environmental Justice, Fundacion Ala Plastica, Global Community Monitor and FreeTibet Campaign, Apr. 2003)
- *Shell faces attack on bonuses -...Friends of the Earth is holding an alternative meeting ahead of the AGM [the Shell annual general meeting in London] with representatives from South Africa, the Philippines, Nigeria and US who claim their health is suffering as a result of living next to Shell's refineries.* (Steve Hawkes, *Evening Standard* [UK], 23 Apr. 2003)

Drug industry debates duty to society -...To what extent should pharmaceutical companies be accountable for including minorities in their studies of new medicines? What issues should be considered in balancing the enforcement of patents and the availability of life-saving drugs? These questions and more arose at the opening day of a conference examining the "Grand Bargain" between society and the drug industry (Lewis Krauskopf, *NorthJersey.com*, 22 Apr. 2003)

Merck board approves spinoff of Medco business -...shareholders [at Merck's annual meeting] rejected two proposals that raised moral issues: A Wisconsin-based religious group...said the board should develop "ethical criteria" on extending patents for prescription drugs. The group argued that generic drugs "expand access to needed treatments," and that making small changes to keep a patented drug under protection brings higher costs to consumers and discourages innovation. The board said the company will defend its patents but "will not pursue baseless legal or other remedies designed merely to delay the entry of generic medicines." (Jeffrey Gold, *Associated Press*, 22 Apr. 2003)

Earth Day Founder Not the Only One to Link Climate Change and Investing - The voices of institutional investors representing public pension funds join those from the insurance industry to advance a business case for addressing climate change...Mr. Hayes [Earth Day founder Denis Hayes] pointed out that precious few companies are following the examples of BP, DuPont, IBM, and Johnson & Johnson, which are recognizing the business case for improving environmental performance and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (William Baue, *SocialFunds.com*, 22 Apr. 2003)

Oxfam: Kraft Foods Refutes Accountability and Shows Lack of Leadership in Addressing Global Coffee Crisis Affecting 25 Million Coffee Farmers (Oxfam America, 22 Apr. 2003)

26 sue turf club [Malaysia] - Twenty-six former Penang Turf Club workers are suing the club for alleged wrongful dismissal...They also claimed that their dismissal was prompted by their active involvement in the formation of the Penang Turf Club Race Day Workers' Union. (*The Star* [Malaysia], 22 Apr. 2003)

WHO: Sugar Association Seeks Withdrawal Of Diet Report - The Sugar Association, a U.S. industry group, has told World Health Organization Director General Gro Harlem Brundtland in a letter that unless the WHO cancels the planned launch tomorrow of a report on diet and health, it will lobby the U.S. Congress to cut WHO funding, the London *Guardian* reported yesterday...Under new WHO guidelines contained in the report, sugar should account for no more than 10 percent of people's dietary intake. The association has said the figure should be 25 percent. (*UN Wire*, 22 Apr. 2003)

- Sugar industry threatens to scupper WHO - The sugar industry in the US is threatening to bring the World Health Organisation to its knees by demanding that Congress end its funding unless the WHO scraps guidelines on healthy eating, due to be published on Wednesday. The threat is being described by WHO insiders as tantamount to blackmail and worse than any pressure exerted

by the tobacco lobby. (Sarah Boseley, *Guardian* [UK], 21 Apr. 2003)

Greenpeace warns investors Monsanto a risk - Anti-biotech forces opened a new line of attack on agrochemical producer Monsanto Co, warning investors that the company's increasing focus on development of genetically modified crops was destined for disaster. (Carey Gillam, *Reuters*, 22 Apr. 2003)

Pollution from small industry up in Canada, US - Industrial pollution in the United States and Canada dropped 4 percent from 1998 to 2000, but a 32 percent surge in toxic emissions from smaller facilities has researchers worried, according to a new study published...The smaller facilities studied include a cross-section of industry, scattered across communities in both countries, and ranging from metal fabricators to food processing plants to lumber mills. (Robert Melnbardis, *Reuters*, 22 Apr. 2003)

ENERGY: OECD-Linked Agency Pushes Efficient Appliances - The International Energy Agency called today on rich countries to use more efficient appliances, a move the agency said could cut the countries' energy use by one-third in seven years and curb greenhouse gas emissions...Home appliances like toasters, computers, refrigerators and televisions are quickly emerging as the biggest energy drains, after automobiles, in OECD countries. The devices consume about 30 percent of the electricity flowing in OECD countries and produce about 12 percent of the bloc's greenhouse gas emissions. (*UN Wire*, 22 Apr. 2003)

- OECD nations can cut energy use by 1/3 by 2010 - IEA (*Reuters*, 22 Apr. 2003)

Office Depot Announces New Environmental Procurement Initiatives (Office Depot, 22 Apr. 2003)

Nike defends claims of sweatshop labour and false advertising -...the United States Supreme Court is about to hear a landmark case about whether Nike's defence of labour conditions in its factories represents false advertising. Nike is asking the Supreme Court to protect free speech by giving companies immunity from laws against false advertising...Nike's critics say false claims made in a speech is just as misleading to consumers as a claim made in a paid commercial. (AM, *ABC Local Radio* [Australia], 21 Apr. 2003)

Kader Factory Fire [Thailand] - Union heads to pursue case in court - 'Workplace-safety awareness still low' - Union leaders want to pursue a court case on the Kader doll factory fire in Nakhon Pathom that killed 188 workers 10 years ago, to make sure the victims get justice. (Penchan Charoensuthiphaphan, *Bangkok Post*, 21 Apr. 2003)

Supreme Court to Decide Age Discrimination Case [USA] - The U.S. Supreme Court said on Monday it would decide whether a federal law barring age bias in the workplace allows for reverse discrimination lawsuits by employees in their 40s who claim older workers are better treated. The high court agreed to hear an appeal by a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corp. arguing the law does not allow for such lawsuits. (James Vicini, *Reuters*, 21 Apr. 2003)

- High Court Accepts Age Case Bias favoring older workers is alleged [USA] (Newsday, 22 Apr. 2003)

Investing with an agenda - Calpers' social, corporate activism drawing attention in bear market as some fear its aggressive tactics may cost governments, firms money -...When the AIDS Healthcare Foundation wanted drug maker GlaxoSmithKline PLC to lower the \$438 a person it charges in developing countries for a year's worth of AZT, it turned to an unlikely ally: America's largest pension fund...In its letter to Glaxo...Calpers praised the drug maker for "established and effective humanitarian programs." But Calpers pressed Glaxo to "immediately and continually evaluate the company's humanitarian efforts in light of a changing environment, including its response to the AIDS epidemic." Calpers wants Glaxo's findings to be scrutinized by an independent body like Doctors Without Borders. (Chris Gaither, *Boston Globe*, 20 Apr. 2003)

Coca-Cola karma: irony in advertising? -...Today, the Coca-Cola Company is holding its annual shareholders' meeting. One participant will be William Mendoza...the President of the National Food Industry Workers' Union in his hometown of Barrancabermeja...Paramilitary groups have killed seven employees of Coca-Cola bottlers – all union members – in Colombia since 1990. Mendoza claims that he is among 65 union members who have received death threats from paramilitary groups. (Rick Stern, *Montana Kaimin* [USA], 16 Apr. 2003)

Partial victory for Coca-Cola workers -...On March 31, US District Court Judge Jose E. Martinez ruled that a group of Colombian plaintiffs can move forward with cases brought under the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA) for human rights violations committed by paramilitaries in Colombia on behalf of two Colombian Coca-Cola bottling companies: Panamco and Bebidas y Alimentos. (New Colombia News Agency, 10 Apr. 2003)

Defending Labor Rights: On the Barricades and In the Boardroom -...At the same time that national governments have failed to regulate the global labor practices of MNCs, international institutions have yet to acquire sufficient power and global support to do so. Legislators from time to time have considered imposing national and international legal obligations on MNCs operating in foreign countries. To date, however, these efforts have not yet proved to be fruitful. NGOs, along with labor unions, have stepped into the power vacuum to become the most conspicuous and vociferous critics of multinational corporations on labor and human rights.
(Michael A. Santoro, Assistant Professor, Rutgers Business School, in *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, winter/spring 2003)

Items added to website on Monday 21 April 2003:

In the green dock: corporate targets [sub-section of article entitled "Asda 'exploiting loophole' for store space"] - FoE [Friends of the Earth] is also targeting some of Britain's largest listed firms, which it claims are putting profits before people and the environment; it has bought shares in 18 publicly quoted firms and has been questioning boards about the impact their businesses are having on the environment. The campaign, to run through the summer, started this week when FoE accused Rio Tinto of human rights abuses and

environmental destruction in Indonesia at its AGM. FoE is also pushing for UK law changes requiring firms to take account of their wider responsibilities and offer affected communities redress or compensation when they fail to do so. The 18 firms targeted...: British American Tobacco (Activities in Burma and use of pesticides in Brazil); Associated British Ports; Rio Tinto (Destructive mining activities in Indonesia); Shell (Environmental damage in the Philippines; South Africa, Nigeria and US); Barclays (Rainforest destruction in Indonesia); BP (Impact of the Baku to Ceyan Russian pipeline); Anglo American (Mining in South America and Africa); BAE Systems; Amec (Subsidiary Spie has a construction contract for BP's Baku-Ceyan pipeline); Premier Oil; Balfour Beatty; P&O; HSBC (Oil industry involvement in Sudan); Tesco; British Airways; Sainsbury; Safeway; BAA. (Julia Finch & Neil Hume, *Guardian* [UK], 19 Apr. 2003)

Investors barrack Rio Tinto bosses - ... Rio Tinto was barracked by small shareholders and special interest groups at an annual meeting that marked a bad-tempered send-off for chairman Sir Robert...The mining group was attacked over pension issues, alleged safety problems in Utah and for not making provisions for a number of legal cases being taken out against it..."The [UK] government must change company law to ensure the directors of irresponsible companies like Rio Tinto are made fully liable and accountable for their destructive impact overseas," said Friends of the Earth campaigner Ed Matthew. (Terry Macalister, *Guardian* [UK], 18 Apr. 2003)

- Rio Tinto exposed for mining impacts in Indonesia - Rio Tinto, the world's biggest mining company, will come under attack at its annual general meeting today for human rights abuses and environmental destruction linked to its operations in Indonesia. The allegations are outlined in a new report from Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI), "Undermining Indonesia", launched today, which investigates the impacts of four of Rio Tinto's most controversial mining operations. (Friends of the Earth, 17 Apr. 2003)

Poor fellow mining country - Steering a big bank and a huge mining company, Leon Davis [chairman of Westpac, deputy chairman of Rio Tinto] puts Aboriginal disadvantage first on his unusual agenda...Westpac recently issued Australia's first comprehensive triple bottom line report..Rio Tinto has made striking progress in its relations with Aboriginal communities in Australia, winning praise from indigenous leaders such as Marcia Langton and Mick Dodson. Davis was key to this policy, spearheading the company's decision to set aside legal hostilities and negotiate with Aboriginal people to form binding voluntary agreements covering native title...Westpac staff volunteers spend four weeks in Aboriginal communities providing mentoring on family financial and small business skills...Rio Tinto has a huge legacy of community conflict to come to terms with [including] the Jabiluka uranium mine, the Weipa industrial dispute, the Bougainville copper mine, allegations of human rights abuses at the huge (albeit minority-owned) FreeportGrasberg copper mine in West Papua, and ongoing debate about disposal of mine tailings at the Lihir gold mine in Indonesia. Recently, for example, Rio Tinto has opposed any ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change by Australia. (Paddy Manning, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 Apr. 2003)

Human rights, salary at issue for Coca-Cola - Coca-Cola should...use its influence in Colombia to encourage greater protections of human rights. These were just a few of the more controversial proposals members of the Atlanta company's board of directors fielded

from some of the 400 shareholders gathered here Wednesday for Coke's annual meeting...Perhaps the most controversial proposal concerned allegations that the company's plant managers used paramilitary groups to intimidate and kill eight union organizers at a bottling plant in Barrancabermeja, Colombia...Coke denies that it is in any way responsible...Richard Shaw of the AFL-CIO implored the company to take a more active role in helping protect the union organizers. Deval Patrick, Coke's general counsel, said the company has gone as far as providing security for Colombian individuals being threatened. (David Kaplan, *Houston Chronicle*, 17 Apr. 2003)

Study: Brazil's child laborers exceed 5.5M - There are more than 5.5 million child laborers in Brazil, a study released Wednesday said, and more than 2 million are ages 5 to 14...Most of the child laborers are in the impoverished northeast and south, and just over 43 percent work in agriculture. More than 51 percent of those surveyed said they worked with potentially dangerous chemicals or hazardous machinery. (Carmen Gentile, *UPI*, 16 Apr. 2003)

- Child Labor in Brazil Falling but Still High (*Reuters*, 16 Apr. 2003)

Human rights ordinance nearly ready [Covington, USA] - Covington's proposed human rights ordinance is nearly in its final form and the lawyer the city hired to draft it predicts the local business community -- which had concerns about it -- will support it...The city since January has been considering expanding its human rights ordinance to ban discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender, marital status and parental status. The ordinance would apply to the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. (Mike Rutledge, *Kentucky Post*, 16 Apr. 2003)

Air Pollution May Damage Brain, Heart - Studies suggest it can cause Alzheimer's-like lesions, heart problems (Leonard Lee, *HealthScoutNews*, 16 Apr. 2003)

Low Levels of Lead Damage Children - It can reduce IQ, delay puberty, new research says...The main exposure to lead [in USA] now occurs in housing built before 1950, where paints with high levels of lead are more common. (Ed Edelson, *HealthScoutNews*, 16 Apr. 2003)

- Low lead levels damage kids - ...In South Africa, the threat of elevated childhood blood lead levels is not expected to decline in the foreseeable future as very few local consumers are currently using unleaded petrol. (*Health24* [South Africa], 16 Apr. 2003)

Total launches review of corporate ethics - TotalFinaElf has launched an independent review of its safety and ethical standards as it attempts to shed its controversial image. The French oil group has come under fire from a mixture of non-governmental organisations, safety regulators and some shareholders because of its links with regimes in Iran, Iraq and Libya, as well as its accident record...Mr Cordier [Jean-Pierre Cordier, head of Total's ethics committee] said that Total had no plans to abandon any of its more sensitive

operations. Of Burma, its most controversial, he said: "We could pull out, but what would happen? Would it improve the situation?" (Carola Hoyos, *Financial Times*, 14 Apr. 2003)

- {... français} TotalFinaElf : tente de modifier son image - Le groupe pétrolier français, TotalFinaElf, vient d'annoncer son intention de lancer un audit indépendant portant sur ses normes de sécurité et d'éthiques... Par cette mesure, le groupe pétrolier espère pouvoir modifier son image, en se rapprochant de ce que d'autres ont fait dans ce secteur comme BP. (*Boursier.com*, 15 avril 2003)

Corporations as Good Global Citizens - Governments have to encourage better corporate behavior at home and abroad -... Some of the world's most prominent firms have been sued in American, Australian, Canadian, Belgian, and British courts for allegedly aiding and abetting human rights violations by governments of developing countries. Other stakeholders have used proxy fights, consumer boycotts, or public pressure to ensure that multinationals adopt corporate social responsibility strategies... Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Canada are doing the most to promote global corporate social responsibility. [refers to UK and Netherlands governments promoting OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; refers to Canada's standards for ethical procurement by the government] (Susan Ariel Aaronson & James Reeves, Global CSR Policies Project at Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, Kenan Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina, in *YaleGlobal*, 8 Apr. 2003)

Business Travel: Offsetting Environmental Damage by Planes (Harry Rijnen, *New York Times*, 18 Feb. 2003)

A Discussion On Ethical Globalization [includes discussion of human rights issues] (participants: Ernesto Zedillo, Mary Robinson, Jagdish Bhagwati, Arjun Appadurai, Gus Ranis, Drusilla Brown, Philip Alston, Thomas Hammarberg, Ayesha Imam, Ben Kiernan, Michael Merson, Harold Hongju Koh, in *YaleGlobal*, 15 Jan. 2003)

Strict International Patent Laws Hurt Developing Countries - What was the South African lawsuit about, and what does it tell us about globalization? [regarding lawsuit filed in 1998 by 39 pharmaceutical companies against South Africa, seeking to stop the government from producing generic drugs to make treatment affordable for the country's AIDS victims; after an international public outcry the companies dropped the lawsuit] (Amy Kapczynski, *YaleGlobal*, 16 Dec. 2002)

Lundin Petroleum: "Code of Conduct: Values" [company policy statement referring to human rights; download Code of Conduct, see section entitled "Values"]

Items added to website on Wednesday 16 April 2003:

EPA steps up study of Teflon chemical risk to humans [USA] - An unregulated chemical used in furniture, carpet and Teflon could be a

serious health risk to the public, prompting the Environmental Protection Agency this week to launch an in-depth assessment to determine its safety. (Reuters, 16 Apr. 2003)

Citigroup's statement re Rainforest Action Network & the environment [RAN and Citigroup call ceasefire] - Citigroup has been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with Rainforest Action Network and other stakeholders regarding our mutual concerns about the environment and related issues. We have now entered into a period to explore comprehensive solutions to these issues...Citigroup has led efforts to establish industry-wide environmental standards for project finance, and has released a draft known as the Equator Principles...In the short term, Citigroup will take additional measures to reduce degradation or destruction of endangered ecosystems in the conduct of our business...We believe that our partnership with RAN can lead to an even deeper understanding of how the financial services industry can help promote sustainable development while protecting the environment. (Citigroup, 15 Apr. 2003)

- Citigroup's letter to its Shareholder Dialogue Group and Rainforest Action Network ...we will also seek to identify investments in less carbon-intensive sources of energy moving forward. (Citigroup, 14 Apr. 2003)

S.Africa Plans Payment to Apartheid Victims - South African President Thabo Mbeki said on Tuesday his government would make a one-time payment of \$3,890 each to more than 19,000 victims of apartheid identified by the country's truth commission. But Mbeki said the government would not follow a recommendation by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to levy a wealth tax on South African business to help pay for reparations...He also signaled the government's opposition to a slew of class-action lawsuits filed in U.S. courts by lawyers acting on behalf of apartheid victims seeking billions of dollars in compensation from foreign and South African corporations accused of propping up or benefiting from nearly half a century of white-minority rule. (Gershwin Wanneburg, Reuters, 15 Apr. 2003)

- Mbeki opposes corporate apartheid lawsuits - South Africa President Thabo Mbeki says the government has not been and will not be party to litigation [in U.S. courts] against corporations that benefited from the apartheid system. (Donwald Pressly, Business Day [South Africa], 15 Apr. 2003)
- Pressure On Mbeki to Lift Burden On Business [South Africa] - President Thabo Mbeki is due to give government's official position today on the issue of reparations for victims of apartheid, amid growing corporate and investor unease about the mounting hidden costs of investing in SA. (Julie Bain, Rob Rose And Xolani Xundu, Business Day [South Africa], 15 Apr. 2003)

New call for cheap Aids drugs - The largest pension fund in the US has called on British drug giant GSK to make access to Aids drugs easier by cutting prices and easing patent controls. (BBC News, 15 Apr. 2003)

- CalPERS asks Glaxo to lower AIDS drug prices (Sacramento Business Journal, 14 Apr. 2003)

- [GSK Commends CalPERS for Its Support of the Company's Continuing HIV/AIDS Efforts](#) - The following is a statement from GlaxoSmithKline commending the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) for their interest in and support of the company's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in developing countries. The statement comes in response to a press release issued by The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). In that press release, AHF describes a letter written by CalPERS to GSK ending months of pressure by AHF to try and force CalPERS to sell its GSK shareholdings. In a unanimous vote, the CalPERS Board rejected AHF's attempts to force a sale of GSK stock, and instead agreed to write a letter expressing its concerns that the company continue and expand its efforts to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. (GlaxoSmithKline, 15 Apr. 2003)
- [CalPERS to Glaxo: Lower AIDS Drug Prices, Increase Humanitarian Efforts](#) - Nation's Largest Pension System Warns British Drug Giant of Damage to Reputation, Encourages GSK to Study Voluntary Licensing of Generic Life-Saving AIDS Drugs - Mammoth Pension Fund Holds Nearly USD\$760 Million in GSK Stock (AIDS Healthcare Foundation, 15 Apr. 2003)

[Conflict Diamonds the Achilles Heel of Canadian Diamond Industry](#) - Statement to the Canadian diamond industry Issued by One Sky - ...One Sky requests that leaders in the Canadian diamond industry publicly state their support for regular, independent monitoring and urge the Canadian government and diamond industry representatives at the Kimberley Process, such as the World Diamond Council, to do so as well. (One Sky, 15 Apr. 2003)

[U.S. proposes rules to cut diesel pollution](#) - The Bush Administration proposed new rules Tuesday that aim to drastically reduce diesel pollution generated by farm and industrial equipment over the next decade. (Todd Zwillich, Reuters, 15 Apr. 2003)

- [Environmental Defense Applauds EPA For Historic Clean Air Proposal](#) - Action On Diesel One Of The Single Most Important Measures to Protect Public Health From Air Pollution - Environmental Defense today praised an historical proposal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to curb harmful diesel exhaust from "nonroad" sources such as construction, industrial, mining, and agricultural equipment. (Environmental Defense, 15 Apr. 2003)

[Women's Group to Target Augusta Members \[USA\]](#) - The leader of efforts to force the Augusta National Golf Club to admit women said Tuesday she will take her protest next to companies whose top executives belong to the club. Martha Burk, head of the National Council of Women's Organizations, said her group plans to request meetings with the top officers of several corporations - among them IBM, General Electric, AT&T, Ford and Microsoft - who hold memberships at the golf club, home to the prestigious Masters tournament. She said her group also is considering appealing to pension fund administrators and other investors to sell stock in companies whose executives belong to the golf club. (Jonathan D. Salant, Associated Press, 15 Apr. 2003)

[Seven activists win top environmental prize](#) (Michael Kahn, Reuters, 15 Apr. 2003)

- [Coalminer's Daughter in West Virginia, Australian Aboriginal Grandmothers Among Winners of 2003 Goldman Environmental Prize - World's Largest Award for Grassroots Environmentalists Honors Seven Fighting for Clean Energy, Water and against Government Corruption](#) (Goldman Environmental Prize, 14 Apr. 2003)
- {...español} [Hija de minero del carbón en Virginia Occidental y abuelas aborígenes de Australia entre los ganadores del Premio Medioambiental Goldman de 2003 - Mayor premio del mundo para ecologistas de base honra a siete que luchan por la energía limpia y el agua sana, y en contra de la corrupción gubernamental](#) (Premio Medioambiental Goldman, 14 abril 2003)
- [Goldman Prize honors environmental crusaders - ...The Goldman prize honors grassroots environmental "heroes" from six geographic areas on the planet.](#) (Wyatt Buchanan, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 14 Apr. 2003)
- [2003 Recipient Backgrounders - 2003 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipients - A coal miner's daughter and native West Virginian, Julia Bonds has won the Goldman Environmental Prize for leading campaigns to stop mountaintop removal mining...Forest protection activist Odigha Odigha of Cross River State, Nigeria, has won the Goldman Environmental Prize for winning unprecedented protections for Nigeria's last remaining rainforests. Odigha was instrumental in creating a statewide logging moratorium...Von Hernandez has won the Goldman Environmental Prize for organizing campaigns against waste incinerators in the Philippines...Physicist and economics professor Pedro Arrojo-Agudo has won the Goldman Environmental Prize for leading the campaign to stop Spain's National Hydrological Plan from damming and re-routing the country's last remaining free-flowing rivers...Peruvian community organizer Maria Elena Foronda Farro has won the Goldman Environmental Prize for her campaign to clean up Peru's fishmeal industry, which dumps untreated industrial waste into streams and out of smokestacks, causing cholera outbreaks, fungal skin diseases and the worst pollution problems in Peru's coastal cities...Aboriginal elders Eileen Kampakuta Brown and Eileen Wani Wingfield have won the Goldman Environmental Prize for their leadership in the campaign to block construction of a nuclear waste dump in their South Australian desert homeland.](#) (Goldman Environmental Prize, 14 Apr. 2003)

[Calpers adds watchlist to emerging-markets policy - Calpers, the No. 1 U.S. pension fund, said on Monday it would in future wait a year for possible reforms before cutting off investment in emerging-market countries that no longer meet its criteria, which include political as well as economic issues. The Philippines was the only country given the year under the new watchlist policy...But Malaysia and Thailand, dropped from the list in February at the same time as the Philippines, will not be given the year to reform...In February, Calpers also ruled out investing in such large countries as China, India and Indonesia. Calpers, which can set the tone for other institutional investors, based its decisions on criteria that include civil liberties, accounting standards, labor law and market transparency.](#) (Reuters, 14 Apr. 2003)

[The Kimberley Process to curb conflict diamonds - Early Achievements, Congressional Action, Next Steps - Critical Challenges in](#)

Phase Two of the Kimberley Process (Rory More O'Ferrall, De Beers Group, remarks to Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, 11 Apr. 2003)

Protesters demand that BAT quit Burma - Fifty Kenneth Clarkes gathered in London yesterday to demand that British American Tobacco close the factory it jointly owns with the military regime in Burma. (*Guardian* [UK], 27 Mar. 2003)

Items added to website on Monday 14 April 2003:

Thirteen dead in Chinese mine blaze - Thirteen miners and rescue workers were killed after a fire ripped through a coal mine in China's northern Hebei province...Chinese mines have an appalling safety record, and the number of mining deaths last year reached 14,924, according to the work safety bureau. (AFP, 12 Apr. 2003)

Employers pay the price for poor health and safety [UK] - Over the last ten years employers [in UK] who have shown scant regard for the health and safety of their workers have wasted £3 billion meeting the cost of accidents at work and paying people made ill by their jobs (Trades Union Congress, 12 Apr. 2003)

New DynCorp Contract Draws Scrutiny -...Insight has learned that the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has issued a \$22 million contract to DynCorp Aerospace Operations (UK) Ltd., a subsidiary of Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), to "re-establish police, justice and prison functions in postconflict Iraq."...last year alone [DynCorp] was not only sued but paid large settlements to two former employees who blew the whistle on corporate managers and employees who engaged in sex trafficking in Bosnia (Kelly Patricia O Meara, *Insight*, 11 Apr. 2003)

EPA to investigate claim that DuPont withheld study of Teflon-related chemical [USA] - An environmental advocacy group asked the Environmental Protection Agency on Friday to investigate whether chemical maker DuPont Co. withheld an internal study that showed health risks from an unregulated chemical used to make Teflon. (John Heilprin, *Associated Press*, 11 Apr. 2003)

Court says Granite City Steel broke labor laws [USA] -...The ruling won't ban the hidden cameras, but it will force National Steel Corp., which owns the Granite City plant, to talk about them when negotiating contracts with the 10 unions representing plant workers. (Michael Shaw, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 11 Apr. 2003)

7th Worker Dies from Injuries in Corbin Explosion [USA] - A seventh worker has died from burns suffered in an explosion at a manufacturing plant at Corbin [CTA Acoustics, Inc.]. (AP, 11 Apr. 2003)

Firm fined \$14,000 over death [New Zealand] - An Auckland company [Orthotic Centre (New Zealand) Ltd, which supplies artificial

limbs and other devices] was fined \$14,000 yesterday after an employee was strangled to death when his tie became tangled in a grinding and milling machine. (*New Zealand Herald*, 11 Apr. 2003)

Globalisation seen as a boost to corporate social responsibility in Asia [regarding study by Nottingham University International Centre for CSR, covering Malaysia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand] (*Business Times* [Malaysia], 11 Apr. 2003)

FleetBoston Financial Releases Sustainability Report - FleetBoston Financial today released its first annual sustainability report...The report further emphasizes Fleet's leadership role in promoting sustainability in the finance industry in partnership with the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES), and the United Nations Environment Programme Financial Institutions Initiative (UNEP FI). Fleet further built upon its longstanding commitment to the community when it became the first financial institution to endorse both of the voluntary codes of conduct associated with CERES and UNEP FI. (FleetBoston Financial, 11 Apr. 2003)

TRADE: Central American Deal a Dud, Activists Say - Activists from labor, development, human rights, and farm groups are calling on the United States and five Central American countries not to rush a trade agreement [Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)] that they say is undemocratic and would drive farmers and other vulnerable groups deeper into poverty. (Emad Mekay, *Inter Press Service*, 10 Apr. 2003)

Michael Smith reports on Tata's army of worker-volunteers, who produce social capital as well as profits [India] -...The Tata group, one of India's largest private sector conglomerates (involving about 80 companies), is renowned worldwide for its commitment to social welfare...Housing for employees, company-run hospitals and schools, and rural development projects such road building, tree planting and well digging are all part of the Tata package...But now Tata's social ethos is under threat because of the forces of globalisation...The company has also sought the help of the Confederation of Indian Industries, in creating a network of like-minded companies that maintain community initiatives. They include Thermax and Forbes Marshall engineering in Pune and TVS, the scooters and automotive giant based in Bangalore. (Michael Smith, *Guardian* [UK], 10 Apr. 2003)

Banks in drive for project principles - The drive by Citigroup and large European providers of project finance in emerging markets to obtain industry-wide adherence to the International Finance Corporation's social and environmental guidelines may increase pressure on export credit agencies to do the same..."In the past, the US Export-Import bank has taken the lead on environmental standards and issues of transparency," said John Sohn, an expert on export credit agencies at Friends of the Earth...The impetus behind the US lead was in part due to financing of the controversial Three Gorges dam in China in 1996. The US Export-Import bank decided not to finance the project..Non-US ECAs, such as Germany's Hermes and Export Development Canada, less constrained by environmental standards, provided some finance for the dam. In an attempt to create a level playing field, the US Export-Import Bank began promoting within the OECD the concept of common and transparent environmental standards but its moves have generally been met

with resistance. (Demetri Sevastopoulos, *Financial Times*, 9 Apr. 2003)

- Four banks adopt IFC agreement - At least four European and US banks plan to adopt the International Finance Corporation's social and environmental guidelines for project finance in emerging markets, a clear signal that banks are awakening to the risks of socially irresponsible investing. ABN Amro, Barclays, Citibank and WestLB, in collaboration with the IFC, the private-sector arm of the World Bank, have drafted an agreement called the "Equator Principles"...Under the agreement, the banks agree to adopt the IFC's social and environmental rules for sustainable development, which include guidelines on issues ranging from environmental assessment and natural habitats to indigenous peoples and child and forced labour. (Demetri Sevastopulo, *Financial Times*, 6 Apr. 2003)
- Four Banks Adopt Social and Environmental Guidelines for Developing World Projects (Business for Social Responsibility News Monitor summary of article in *Financial Times*, 7 Apr. 2003)

Decision on appeal on Friday [Malaysia] - The Court of Appeal will decide on Friday an appeal by a former company operations director against a High Court decision quashing an Industrial Court order in her favour for constructive dismissal after alleged sexual harassment by the company's managing director. (*New Straits Times*, 9 Apr. 2003)

People's Congress Urges Land, Food Without Poisons - Agricultural workers and their families are being poisoned, rural lands, forests, oceans and waters are devastated, biodiversity is being destroyed, and food is unfit for human consumption. With these words, 140 participants from 17 countries at the First Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific Congress in Manila last week warned the world that industrial agriculture as conducted by transnational corporations is undermining the resources needed to sustain food production. (*Environment News Service*, 7 Apr. 2003)

Ex-firefighter sues DynCorp over dismissal [USA] - Skaggs' lawsuit alleges the company violated Americans with Disability Act and Age Discrimination Employment Act when it fired Skaggs, who is in his early 50s. (Jay F. Marks, *Enid News & Eagle*, 14 Mar. 2003)

Gildan on the hot seat (again) for sweatshop abuses in Honduras - The Montreal-based T-shirt manufacturer Gildan Activewear was recently in the news for allegations of worker rights violations at a Gildan-owned factory in Honduras. (Maquila Solidarity Network, Feb. 2003)

- Gildan confronted with allegations of union-busting: Solidarity Fund requests probe to determine whether Hondurans were fired for organizing (Jan Ravensbergen, *Montreal Gazette*, 7 Feb. 2003)
- {...français} Le Fonds de la FTQ enquête sur Gildan - Le Fonds de solidarité de la FTQ demande qu'un tiers indépendant

enquête sur les allégations portées contre Gildan selon lesquelles l'entreprise aurait licencié des employés au Honduras parce qu'ils tentaient de se syndiquer. (Francis Vailles, *La Presse* [Montréal], 7 février 2003)

- {...français} Les «pratiques» de Gildan au Honduras créent des remous... (Maude Goyer, *Journal de Montréal*, 7 février 2003)

{...español} Una introducción al ALCA - Las negociaciones por un tratado de libre comercio en las Américas (GRAIN, enero 2003)

Items added to website on Friday 11 April 2003:

US Lawmakers Support International Agreement to Ban 'Conflict' Diamonds - The U.S. Senate is expected to follow the House of Representatives and pass legislation this week aimed at banning international trade in uncut diamonds that fund rebel activities in Africa. The legislation is required for the United States to implement an international agreement [Kimberly Process Certification Scheme] to ban trade in so-called 'blood' or 'conflict' diamonds. (Deborah Tate, *Voice of America*, 10 Apr. 2003)

- House OKs bill to block 'conflict diamonds' [USA] - The House of Representatives this week approved legislation that would block trade in "conflict diamonds" (Jeffrey Sparshott, *Washington Times*, 10 Apr. 2003)
- USA - Statement on the Clean Diamond Act - Amnesty International welcomes the passage today of legislation to combat the trade in conflict diamonds. This legislation will cut funding for terror, conflict and human rights violations by tens of millions of dollars while protecting legitimate trade from diamond-producing countries. (Adotei Akwei, Advocacy Director for Africa, Amnesty International USA, 9 Apr. 2003)

Environmentalists set sights on Sasol - A website has been established to keep an eye on the environmental impact South African oil and chemicals group Sasol's operations has on communities in South Africa and the US. (Justin Brown, *Sunday Times* [South Africa], 10 Apr. 2003)

- Sasol May See Red Over Greens' Guerrilla Tactics - On the same day Sasol listed on the New York Stock Exchange, environmental groups launched a website warning investors about its "environmentally destructive industrial operations". (Larry Claassen, *Business Day* [South Africa], 10 Apr. 2003)
- SasolWatch: Welcome to SasolWatch.com a website dedicated to tracking the environmental, public health and labor infractions resulting from the operations of Sasol Ltd. and its international subsidiaries
- SASOL: A global leader or a major polluter - South African and African American Communities on the Fencelines of Sasol

[Facilities Warn Investors of Sasol's Liabilities for Environmental Destruction & Health Threats](#) (SasolWatch, South African Exchange Program on Environmental Justice, Mossville Environmental Action Now, 8 Apr. 2003)

- company website: [Sasol](#)

[Aventis Donates Cell Line to NIH for SARS \[USA\]](#) - Aventis said it donated a cell line to the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help isolate and reproduce the coronavirus, suspected of causing SARS. (Reuters, 10 Apr. 2003)

[Nigeria: Government and Oil Firms Should Act on Delta Violence](#) - The Nigerian government and multinational oil companies should take immediate measures to prevent further violence and abuses around Warri in the oil-rich Niger delta, Human Rights Watch today said in letters to President Olusegun Obasanjo and the managing directors of three companies...Human Rights Watch appealed to the main companies operating in the area - ChevronTexaco, Royal Dutch/Shell and TotalFinaElf - to publicly urge the Nigerian government to restore security in a manner that respects due process and fundamental human rights, and that is not disproportionate to the threat. (Human Rights Watch, 9 Apr. 2003)

- [Letter to Chevron Nigeria](#) (from Human Rights Watch, 7 Apr. 2003)
- [Letter to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria](#) (from Human Rights Watch, 7 Apr. 2003)

[Code of conduct draft for gender justice revised \[Pakistan\]](#) - ...Under the code of conduct, gender harassment at workplace includes any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favours or other verbal or physical conduct of such nature, and vindictive attitude after getting refusal to such request. The ministries of women development and labour will constitute vigilance committees to monitor and oversee application of this code at the district level. (Dawn [Pakistan], 9 Apr. 2003)

[Nike: Free Speech or "False Promises"?](#) - On Apr. 23, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear charges that Nike committed consumer fraud by making false statements about the labor conditions in its overseas factories. (Aaron Bernstein, *Business Week*, 9 Apr. 2003)

[Ex-Railroad Workers File Asbestos Lawsuits \[USA\]](#) - The papers describe five men who faced the end of their lives with bodies ridden with cancer. They had difficulty breathing because of damaged lungs, some developed dementia, and others were in constant pain from damaged nervous systems. Now four survivors face a similar future. Nine lawsuits filed Tuesday in 3rd District Court allege that Union Pacific Railroad Company is to blame. (Rhina Guidos, *Salt Lake Tribune*, 9 Apr. 2003)

[Trial Begins in Bias Suit by Deaf U.P.S. Workers \[USA\]](#) - Lawyers for 900 deaf workers at United Parcel Service argued today as a trial

in their discrimination lawsuit opened that the company had excluded them from numerous job categories and generally limited them to bottom-rung positions. (Steven Greenhouse, *New York Times*, 8 Apr. 2003)

Passive smoking at work: the global pressure mounts - Over the last few years, the pressure has been mounting around the world for controls on passive smoking in the workplace, often led by trade unions. (Rory O'Neill and Owen Tudor, *Risks*, 9 Apr. 2003)

Just what we've all been waiting for - Steve Hilton is impressed by Business in the Community's new Corporate Responsibility Index [UK] - ...After a lengthy gestation period and much speculation, Business in the Community introduced its Corporate Responsibility Index to the world in March...It provides a centralised focus for the evaluation and improvement of social and environmental performance, but it also shows senior managers – often for the first time – how, in an operational sense, CR cannot be seen as a centralised function and that it relates to everyone in the company, not just the corporate affairs department or equivalent. (Steve Hilton, *Ethical Corporation Magazine*, 8 Apr. 2003)

Domini files amicus brief with Supreme Court in Nike v. Kasky - Socially Responsible Investors Argue that Nike's Position Threatens Securities Regulation - Domini Social Investments LLC today announced that it has filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court that supports San Francisco activist Marc Kasky in his effort to hold Nike accountable for its statements concerning the company's use of sweatshop labor. (Domini Social Investments, 7 Apr. 2003)

Silicosis deaths in Pondicherry [India] - Silicosis strikes glass factory workers, most of them women, in Pondicherry. Seven people are dead and more may be dying. But the government and the factory management tout technicalities in the face of the workers' suffering. (Asha Krishnakumar, *Frontline* [India], 29 Mar.-11 Apr. 2003)

- A certain killer [India] - Silicosis is one of the oldest known occupational diseases and affects the lungs...While there are no immediate estimates of the number of people suffering from silicosis, it is known to occur among miners, foundry workers, stonecutters, sandblasters, tunnel workers and rock drillers. (Asha Krishnakumar, *Frontline* [India], 29 Mar.-11 Apr. 2003)
- Broken lives [India] - They want the government and the [glass] factory management to compensate the families of the women who died and others who are in various stages of the disease [silicosis]...The suspicion in the village is that in the case of many more women the cause of death may have been silicosis. (Asha Krishnakumar, *Frontline* [India], 29 Mar.-11 Apr. 2003)

Items added to website on Wednesday 9 April 2003:

UK industry cuts CO2 emissions by well over target - Britain's industry has slashed emissions of polluting carbon dioxide (CO2) by more than three times above targets as plans to cut greenhouse gases take effect, the government said. (Reuters, 9 Apr. 2003)

[Passive smoking at work kills three people every day \[UK\]](#) (Trades Union Congress, 8 Apr. 2003)

- [Passive smoking 'killing workers' \[UK\] - Passive smoking at work kills three people every day \[in UK\], according to research. The study found that around 900 office workers, 165 bar workers and 145 manufacturing workers die each year as a direct result of breathing in other people's tobacco smoke at work.](#) (BBC News, 7 Apr. 2003)

[2 Companies Said to Agree to Settle Suits on Emissions \[USA\]](#) - Alcoa and Archer Daniels Midland have agreed to settle federal air pollution complaints by upgrading smelters and other factories at a cost the government estimates at \$700 million (Jennifer Lee, New York Times, 8 Apr. 2003)

- [EPA, Cos. Settle Clean Air Violations \[USA\]](#) - The New York Times reported on its Web site Tuesday night that the agreement has been reached with Alcoa and Archer Daniels Midland. The EPA would not confirm the identities of the companies due to a confidentiality agreement. (Associated Press, 8 Apr. 2003)

[First ever Human Rights Checklist for Business launched](#) - As US firms and others line up for the post-war fruits of Iraq reconstruction contracts, Amnesty International launches today (7 April) the first ever human rights checklist for companies. The new booklet summarises existing international law, treaties and codes on human rights relevant to business, and will help those in the bidding for contracts in Iraq ensure they do not become guilty of human rights abuses during the critical rebuilding period. The six-page Amnesty International publication, The Human Rights Responsibilities of Companies, is a quick and easy guide to implementing human rights policies. (Amnesty International UK, 7 Apr. 2003)

- full report: [The human rights responsibilities of companies - New draft UN Norms provide guidelines for business](#) [scroll down to bottom of page to download] (Amnesty International UK, March 2003)

[US firm faces \\$1bn claim for complicity \[South Africa\]](#) - Fluor, the biggest US publicly traded engineering and construction company, faces a \$1 billion claim by black former workers who allege they were discriminated against under apartheid. Anglo American, the world's second-biggest mining company, and diamond producer De Beers also face a lawsuit by former employees who say they were enslaved, beaten and tortured under apartheid. Lawyer Ed Fagan said a lawsuit would be filed today in California federal courts. The suit will argue that Fluor paid blacks less than whites and that the company helped repress workers during a 1987 strike in which two were killed. (Jonathan Rosenthal and Antony Sguazzin, *Business Report* [South Africa], 7 Apr. 2003)

- [Anglo stock hit by class action suit \[South Africa\]](#) - Shares in Anglo American and Sasol fell sharply on Friday after it was disclosed that US lawyer Ed Fagan and local representative John Ngcubethsa were planning to file a class action suit for damages against Anglo and Fluor, a US company that worked with Sasol, for their role in human rights abuses during apartheid.

(Max Gebhardt, *Business Report* [South Africa], 7 Apr. 2003)

- [Lawsuits Force Anglo, Sasol Shares Lower \[South Africa\]](#) - Government does not back the multibillion-dollar lawsuits [in U.S. courts] for apartheid reparations being brought against SA corporate giants, but will also not intervene to stop them, says Justice Minister Penuell Maduna. (Rob Rose & Julie Bain, *Business Day* [South Africa], 7 Apr. 2003)
- [Anglo case to start in New York](#) - The apartheid reparations class action lawsuit, which includes commodity giant Anglo American (Anglo) as a respondent, is set to start May 19 in a New York court...Anglo, along with the world's largest diamond miner De Beers which is 45% held by Anglo, faces a \$3.1 to \$6.1bn apartheid lawsuit..US construction and engineering group US Fluor Corporation is also facing a claim of between \$900m and \$1.4bn. (Justin Brown, *News24.com* [South Africa], 7 Apr. 2003)
- [Sasol slumps on apartheid claim \[South Africa\]](#) (AFP, 7 Apr. 2003)
- [Ed Fagan, SA lawyers take aim at Fluor \[South Africa\]](#) (South African Press Association, in *Mail & Guardian* [South Africa], 6 Apr. 2003)
- [Diamond industry hit by £3bn suit](#) - The maverick lawyer who forced Swiss banks to pay out huge reparations to Holocaust victims yesterday took on the diamond industry, demanding billions of dollars be paid to South African workers "exploited" during the apartheid era. (Fred Bridgland, *The Scotsman*, 5 Apr. 2003)
- [Ed Fagan meets local lawyers and claimants \[South Africa\]](#) - Local lawyers and US class action lawyer Ed Fagan have announced in Johannesburg that they would be suing US company, Fluor International, for more than \$700 million in damages for discriminatory wages paid to the company's employees in South Africa in the 70s and 80s. (SAPA, 5 Apr. 2003)
- [Lawyers say to file apartheid suit against Fluor](#) (Reuters, 5 Apr. 2003)
- [Anglo Rejects \\$6bn Reparations Claim \[South Africa\]](#) - Anglo American has swept aside pressure from a US lawyer that it must provide between \$3 and \$6 billion in reparations for apartheid-related damages. The group claims that questions of reparations to individuals is a matter for South Africa and its courts, if necessary. In a strongly worded statement issued on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Friday, the UK-listed mining group said it had already made "extensive contributions" to reconciliation and reconstruction in South Africa. (David Mckay, *Mineweb* [South Africa], 4 Apr. 2003)

[Director arrested for Brazilian disaster - Brazilian authorities Monday arrested an administrative director of the paper and pulp company \[Felix Santana of the Cataguases Paper and Pulp Co.\] blamed for a recent chemical spill, considered by some to be the worst](#)

environmental catastrophe in the country's history. (Carmen Gentile, *UPI*, 7 Apr. 2003)

China's Workers Risk Limbs in Export Drive -...Yongkang, which means "eternal health" in Chinese, is also the dismemberment capital of China. At least once a day someone like Mr. Wang is rushed to one of the dozen clinics that specialize in treating hand, arm and finger injuries, according to local government statistics. Unofficial estimates run as high as 2,500 such accidents here each year....The reality, all over China, is that workplace casualties have become endemic. (Joseph Kahn, *New York Times*, 7 Apr. 2003)

Lethal factory blaze in China - At least 21 people have been killed in a fire at a food-processing factory [Qingdao Chia Tai company] in China's eastern province of Shandong. (BBC News, 7 Apr. 2003)

Alleged culprits of Brazil toxic spill on the run - The owners of a pulp and paper factory that caused one of Brazil's worst environmental disasters are on the run, the judge who ordered their arrest said last week. (Reuters, 7 Apr. 2003)

Global Trade Unions state Position for WTO Cancun Meeting (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, 7 Apr. 2003)

- Trade union statement on the agenda for the 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) (Cancún, 10-14 September 2003) (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, 6 Apr. 2003)
- {...español} Declaración sindical para incluir en el orden del día de la 5ª Conferencia Ministerial de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), Cancún, 10-14 de septiembre de 2003 (Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres, 7 abril 2003)
- {...français} Le mouvement syndical international annonce sa position pour la réunion de Cancun de l'OMC (Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, 7 avril 2003)
- {...français} Déclaration syndicale concernant l'ordre du jour de la 5e conférence ministérielle de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), Cancún, 10-14 septembre 2003 (Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, 7 avril 2003)

Group Opposing Mining of Titanium is Dissolved [Kenya] - A farmers' group formerly opposed to the titanium mining project in Kwale has been disbanded. The farmers said they would join hands with a committee elected last week to look into the project. The Maumba Nguluku Welfare Association chairman, Mr Frank Mutua, said they took the decision because the government had shown the willingness to address their grievances. (Jonathan Manyindo, *The Nation* [Kenya], 7 Apr. 2003)

Students urge Taco Bell boycott [USA] -...UA [University of Arizona] students joined a group of campus protests across the country,

including some at Cornell University and University of Southern California, to boycott Taco Bell for their connection to a tomato farm in Florida with substandard workers' rights. (Bob Purvis, *Arizona Daily Wildcat*, 7 Apr. 2003)

Office Depot Commits to Develop All-Encompassing Environmental Policy [USA] - Office Depot, Inc., the world's largest seller of recycled paper products, today announced additional efforts to bolster its leadership position on key environmental issues related to the office supplies industry. These measures include the development of a comprehensive environmental policy. (Office Depot, 7 Apr. 2003)

Lundin and OMV criticised for resumed oil exploration in Sudan - Sweden's Lundin Petroleum and Austria's OMV have attracted criticism for their decision to resume oil exploration in southern Sudan. The companies said that their action had been made possible by "positive developments in the peace process and the improved conditions in the concession area". (Mallen Baker, *Business Respect newsletter*, 6 Apr. 2003)

A standard to build trust in company social reporting - Accountability has released the AA1000 Assurance Standard in an attempt to put some degree of quality and rigour onto the growing process of social reporting. The question is how well does it succeed? (Mallen Baker, *Business Respect newsletter*, 6 Apr. 2003)

Pratt & Whitney faces tumor lawsuit [USA] - A lawsuit will be filed against Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and its parent, United Technologies Corp., alleging the companies were responsible for the death or disability of employees due to brain tumors. (Ann DeMatteo, *New Haven Register*, 5 Apr. 2003)

- Cancer Lawsuit Targets Pratt - Workers Exposed To Toxic Chemicals, Litigation Contends [USA] - More than 70 former Pratt & Whitney employees or their survivors are suing the jet-engine maker for exposures to toxic chemicals and other substances that they say caused cancer, and in many cases, death. (John M. Moran, *Hartford Courant*, 5 Apr. 2003)

A detailed European action plan will soon be unveiled to deal with the growing problem of illness and disease caused by environmental pollution. Special focus will be given to children who are most vulnerable to environmental hazards. (Welcomeurope, 4 Apr. 2003)

- {...français} Nouveau plan d'action sur la Santé et l'Environnement - plan d'action européen détaillé sera présenté prochainement, lequel visera à lutter contre le problème croissant des maladies et des affections causées par la pollution de l'environnement. Une attention particulière sera accordée aux enfants, particulièrement vulnérables aux nuisances environnementales. (Welcomeurope, 4 avril 2003)

SUDAN: Renew Mandate of Human Rights Rapporteur, Bishops Urge ...A Rapportuer is needed, the bishops said, because "military

action of armed groups supported by the Khartoum regime continued to violate the lives and safety of villages in the oil rich areas in the recent months." (Catholic Information Service For Africa, 2 Apr. 2003)

China Establishes Global Compact Learning Centre - The China Reform and Development Forum Committee, under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS), is establishing The Global Compact Learning Forum China Centre to help advance the principles of the Global Compact and the tenets of corporate citizenship in all sectors of the Chinese economy...As part of this effort, a Global Compact China Website has been launched to facilitate communication, dialogue and learning. (U.N. Global Compact, 24 Mar. 2003)